



2632
Docket No.: RVR-001
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Racunas, Jr. Art Unit : 2632
Serial No. : 09/671,363 ✓ Examiner : Pope, D.
Filed : September 28, 2000
Title : INTERNET COMMUNICATION OF PARKING LOT OCCUPANCY
INFORMATION

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination, please amend the application as follows.

In the specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 12 with the following rewritten paragraph:

A1
Locating a vacant parking space is an ordeal that causes frustration for many commuters. Even if a commuter pays to enter a parking lot, valuable time is consumed searching for a parking space within the parking lot. It seems that parking lots that service hospitals, airports, mass transit stations, entertainment forums, shopping malls, and the like are always the most crowded, when time is the most crucial. As urban and suburban regions become more populated, finding a vacant parking space will become increasingly difficult for commuters.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 24 with the following rewritten paragraph:

A2
U.S. Patent No. 5,432,508 to Jackson ('508 patent) discloses a technique for informing vehicle operators of available parking spaces in a parking garage. According to the '508 patent, light sources mounted above the parking spaces and at the entrance to the parking garage are used to indicate the location of available spaces. The '508 patent also discloses a computer which collects information concerning parking availability and communicates the information to prospective users. Namely, a person can place a telephone call and receive a voice message indicating whether the parking lot is full.